

I. IDENTIFICATION	<p>PROPERTY NAME: Porterdale Cemetery HISTORIC NAME: "The Colored Cemetery"</p> <p>STREET ADDRESS: 10th Ave., south of 5th St. CITY: Columbus COUNTY: Muscogee</p> <p>PRESENT OWNER: Columbus Consolidated MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1340 Government</p> <p>CITY: Columbus STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 31902</p> <p>CURRENT USE: Cemetery (for black citizens) ACREAGE: 17.6</p> <p>U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Columbus, GA-AL U.T.M. REFERENCE: a) 16-689540-3592375 b) 16-689860-3592370</p> <p>V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 20/15/1 c) 16-689860-3592065 (CONT'D)</p>
II. DESCRIPTION	<p>ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Situated on the Northern edge of the Southern greenbelt of the city, this 17.6 acre cemetery is organized in a gridiron pattern centered around an east/west axis. The land is flat and is landscaped with scattered cedar trees and ornamental shrubbery. Graves positioned with the headstones facing east, are scattered within the gridiron pattern with some in family plots and some alone. Headstones are generally of crude stonework with early markers hand cut into native stone, later markers are concrete slabs. Some marble markers memorialize the burial site of prominent leaders of the black community. Boundaries include four lane roads to the east and south, with chain link</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(CONT'D)</p>
III. HISTORY	<p>ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Columbus ORIGINAL USE: Cemetery (for black citizens)</p> <p>ARCHITECT/BUILDER: HISTORIC ACREAGE:</p> <p>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:</p> <p>HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): This cemetery, which is believed to have been set aside in Edward Lloyd Thomas' original plan of the city (in 1828) for the burial of Columbus' black citizens, is the oldest public cemetery for blacks in Columbus. Up until 1936, the burial ground had only been called, "The Colored Cemetery." But, in the city directory of that year (1936), the name "Porterdale" is listed for the first time. Undoubtedly, the cemetery was named in honor of Richard P. Porter who served as the cemetery's sexton from as early as 1878 until around 1920.</p>
IV. SIGNIFICANCE	<p>N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local History, Sculpture; Art LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local</p> <p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): <u>Local History</u>: This cemetery is significant as it is the oldest public burial ground for blacks in Columbus. It is also significant as it was named in honor of the sexton, Richard P. Porter (who was black) who served in the capacity for nearly half a century. <u>Sculpture; Art</u>: The cemetery is significant in the terms of sculpture and art as the markers (tombstones) reflect the black community's cultural attitudes (and how its attitudes have changed through the years). There are marked graves here which date from the early 1840's.</p>
V. SOURCES	<p>FORM PREPARED BY: a) Nancy Alexander ORGANIZATION: a) Lower Chattahoochee APDC Roger Harris b) Historic Columbus Foundation</p> <p>ADDRESS: b) Janice P. Biggers TELEPHONE NUMBER: a) (404) 324-4221 a) P.O. Box 1908, Columbus, Ga. 31994 b) 700 Broadway, Col., Ga. (404) 322-0756</p> <p>REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:</p> <p>SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Columbus City Directories (1878-1936).</p>



PHOTOGRAPHER: F. Clason Kyle

DATE: 1 August 1978

ROLL NO. 4 FRAME NO.19A NEGATIVES FILED: Historic Columbus Foundation
700 Broadway

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: North Columbus, Georgia 31901

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.
U.T.M. REFERENCE: d) 16-689540-3592225

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: fence to the north and west. Surrounded by vacant lots, Columbus Farmers market, and Southern greenbelt; fair condition.

JUL 9 1980

SEP 29 1980